

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A computer data signal embodied in a propagation medium,
2 comprising:
3 a code segment comprising information corresponding to a digital
4 representation of an image; and
5 a code segment comprising information corresponding to image meta-data
6 associated with the image and identified by applying a predefined image analysis
7 algorithm to the digital representation of the image.
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1 2. The computer data signal of claim 1, wherein the image meta-data
2 comprises at least one searchable keyword.
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1 3. The computer data signal of claim 1, wherein the predefined image
2 analysis algorithm comprises a face recognition vector algorithm.
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1 4. An image file embodied in a computer-readable medium, comprising:
2 a code segment comprising information corresponding to a digital
3 representation of an image; and
4 a code segment comprising information corresponding to image meta-data
5 associated with the image and identified by applying a predefined image analysis
6 algorithm to the digital representation of the image.

1 5. The image file of claim 4, wherein the image meta-data comprises at
2 least one searchable keyword.

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1 6. The image file of claim 4, wherein the predefined image analysis
2 algorithm comprises a face recognition vector algorithm.

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1 7. An image capture device, comprising:
2 image capture hardware configured to capture an image; and
3 logic configured for:
4 generating a digital representation of the image, the digital
5 representation comprising image data;
6 applying at least one predefined image analysis algorithm to the digital
7 representation of the image, the at least one predefined image analysis
8 algorithm identifying meta-data corresponding to the image; and
9 combining the meta-data corresponding to the image with the image
10 data to define new image data.

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1 8. The image capture device of claim 7, wherein the logic is software and
2 further comprising a processing device for implementing the logic.

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1 9. The image capture device of claim 7, wherein the logic is further
2 configured for storing the new image data.

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1 10. The image capture device of claim 7, further comprising a network
2 interface device configured for communication with a communications network and
3 wherein the logic is further configured for providing the new image data to the
4 communications network.

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1 11. The image capture device of claim 7, further comprising an interface
2 configured for direct communication with a computer and wherein the logic is further
3 configured for providing the new image data to the computer.

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1 12. The image capture device of claim 7, wherein the image meta-data
2 comprises at least one searchable keyword.

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1 13. A method for generating an image file containing meta-data, the
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 identifying a digital representation of an image, the digital representation
4 comprising image data;

5 applying at least one predefined image analysis algorithm to the digital
6 representation of the image, the at least one predefined image analysis algorithm

7 identifying meta-data corresponding to the image; and

8 combining the meta-data corresponding to the image with the image data to
9 define new image data.

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1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the meta-data comprises at least one
2 searchable keyword.

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1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of identifying a digital
2 representation of the image involves receiving the image data.

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1 16. A method for searching image files having specific image meta-data,
2 the method comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a search query comprising information related to specific image
4 meta-data;

5 based on the search query, searching one or more image files comprising a
6 source code segment comprising information corresponding to a digital representation
7 of an image and a source code segment comprising information corresponding to
8 image meta-data associated with the image, the image meta-data identified by
9 applying a predefined image analysis algorithm to the digital representation of the
10 image; and

11 determining one or more of the image files in which the source code segment
12 comprising information corresponding to image meta-data matches the specific image
13 meta-data in the search query.

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1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of providing the
2 or more image files that match the specific image meta-data in the search query.

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1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the image meta-data and the search
2 query comprises at least one searchable keyword.

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1 19. A method for locating an image file, the method comprising the steps
2 of:

3 providing a search query comprising information related to specific image
4 meta-data; and

5 receiving one or more image files comprising a source code segment
6 comprising information corresponding to a digital representation of an image and a
7 source code segment comprising information corresponding to image meta-data
8 associated with the image that matches the specific image meta-data in the search
9 query, the image meta-data identified by applying a predefined image analysis
10 algorithm to the digital representation of the image.

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 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the image meta-data and the search
query comprises at least one searchable keyword.